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Dr. Eric Britzke earned a B.S. and M.S. in Biology from Missouri State University and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Tennessee Technological University. After working as a post-doc at Clemson University and a private consultant, Dr. Britzke took a position as a Research Wildlife Biologist at the US Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory. His recent research has focused on terrestrial vertebrate ecology, particularly bats. Dr. Britzke uses acoustic to identify bats by their echolocation calls as well as investigating impact of White-nose Syndrome on bat populations.

In recent years bats have received increased attention as White-nose Syndrome has emerged in the eastern United States. This disease is caused by a fungal infection that infects bats during the hibernation period. Infected bats arouse more frequently during hibernation, thereby using up fat reserves before insects emerge in the spring. Since it was first located in North America in 2006, WNS is responsible for the death of over 6 million hibernating bats and has expanded its range throughout most of the eastern United States and Canada. These declines have resulted in large regulatory impacts as restrictions are tightened for already listed species as well as additional species being considered for future listing. A national Plan has been developed to guide federal, state, and tribal response to this devastating disease. Dr. Britzke serves as the chair of the Disease Surveillance Working Group as well as the DoD representative on the WNS National Plan Steering committee.